

Outbreak of yellow fever &

Inter-State Notification:

ITS PRINCIPLES AS DEMONSTRATED

— IN —

THE HISTORY

OF

YELLOW FEVER

AT

BILOXI,

Harrison County, Miss.,

1886.



OUTBREAK OF YELLOW FEVER,

—AT—

BILOXI,

Harrison County, Miss.

—AND ITS RELATION—

—TO—



INTER-STATE NOTIFICATION.

NEW ORLEANS,
1886.

OUTBREAK OF YELLOW FEVER

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1901

BILLOXI

HARRISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI



INTERSTATE NOTIFICATION



PREFACE.

EXTRACT FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE

SANITARY CONFERENCE OF STATE BOARDS OF HEALTH,

Held at New Orleans, La., June 2d, 3d and 4th, 1884.

Under date of May 12th, 1884, the following communication was addressed through His Excellency, the Governor of the State of Louisiana to the Governors of the States of the Gulf and to the authorities of Tennessee:—

OFFICE BOARD OF HEALTH, }
State of Louisiana. }
NEW ORLEANS, May 12, 1884. }

DEAR SIR—I beg to call your attention to the following resolution passed by the State Board of Health of Louisiana on the 8th day of May, 1884:

Resolved, That the President of the Board be requested to solicit a Conference of Representatives from the State Boards of Health of the States of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas Louisiana and Tennessee, for the purpose of bringing said Boards into harmony and, if possible, to devise and recommend improvements in the systems of quarantine in use along the Gulf coast, such Conference to be held in the city of New Orleans on Monday, June 2, 1884.

It is earnestly hoped your honorable authorities will take a favorable view of this matter and coöperate in the proposed Conference.

It is my belief that much good may be done by such Conference in establishing uniformity and precision of action among ourselves and confidence in the minds of the people of the interior. It is necessary that we should demonstrate to these

that as guardians against the introduction of contagious or infectious diseases from abroad we are keenly alive to our duties.

The following subjects would probably engage the attention of the Conference :

The necessity for the prompt interchange between State Boards of Health of information on all subjects relating to the public health.

The possibility of the introduction of infectious or contagious diseases is the chief drawback to the prosperity of the Gulf ports, it is, therefore, the duty of State and municipal authorities to increase the resources and otherwise enlarge and strengthen the powers of Boards of Health of the several States bordering on the Gulf of Mexico.

Can an effective quarantine be enforced along the Gulf coast?

How to enforce quarantine so as to produce the least possible injury to commerce.

Non-intercourse—under what circumstances justified.

Period of quarantine detention.

The proper disposal of non-infected and infected vessels under quarantine. Treatment of vessels and cargoes with a view to disinfection.

The advisability of petitioning Congress to require consular agents of the United States residing at intertropical ports habitually or periodically infected with yellow fever, to cause all ships in such ports that are about to load for ports in the United States, to be thoroughly inspected and cleansed before receiving cargo, and a certificate furnished to that effect.

* * * * *

Very respectfully,

JOSEPH HOLT, M. D.,

President Board of Health, State of Louisiana.

In accordance with the invitation thus extended, the Conference assembled in the city of New Orleans, at Grunewald Hall, Monday, June 2d, at noon.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Joseph Holt, President of the Louisiana Board, who then moved that Dr. Wirt Johnston be elected Permanent Chairman and that Dr. C. C. Fite be elected Permanent Secretary. Carried unanimously.

The circular letter above given was then read.

The following delegates registered their names with the Secretary:

FLORIDA—Dr. W. Fordham, member Pensacola Board; A. Avery, Esq., President Pensacola Board; Dr. R. W. Hargis, member Pensacola Board; Dr. W. E. Anderson, Millview Board.

ALABAMA—Dr. Jerome Cochrane, State Health Officer; Dr. Geo. A. Ketchum, member State Board, President Mobile Board; Dr. T. Sidney Scales, Health Officer, Mobile, and member State Board.

MISSISSIPPI—Dr. Wirt Johnston, Secretary State Board; Dr. John Wright, Dr. D. L. Phares, Dr. E. P. Sale, Dr. J. W. Bennett, Dr. J. M. Taylor, Dr. C. A. Rice, members of State Board; Dr. A. Parker Champlin, President Hancock County Board; Dr. J. A. Mead, Secretary Hancock County Board; Dr. J. J. Hairy, President Harrison County Board; Dr. J. D. Bragg, member Jackson County Board and Quarantine Officer; J. Poitevent, member Hancock County Board.

TENNESSEE Dr. G. B. Thornton, President Memphis Board and member State Board; Dr. C. C. Fite, Secretary State Board.

LOUISIANA—Dr. Joseph Holt, President State Board; Dr. L. F. Salomon, Dr. L. H. Von Gohren, Hon. Jos. H. Shakespeare, Dr. Chas. E. Kells, Dr. S. R. Olliphant, members State Board; Edward Fenner, Esq., President Auxiliary Sanitary Association; Thos. S. Elder, Secretary, Messrs. Henry Ginder, Jos. Simon, W. S. Wilson, S. Hershheim, James Jackson, Rev. Dr. R. A. Holland, members; Thomas J. Woodward, member Chamber of Commerce; Sam M. Todd, member Mexican Exchange; N. D. Wallace, J. T. Brodnax, Jas. Flower, members Produce Exchange.

TEXAS.—Dr. R. M. Swearingen, State Health Officer.

* * * * *

A committee, appointed to draw up an order of business and discussion, among other subjects, submitted the following:

INTERSTATE AND LOCAL QUARANTINE.

1. The necessity of prompt interchange between State and municipal Boards of Health of information on all subjects relating to public health.

2. The suggestion that this Conference would make as to the best method of preventing the spread of infectious diseases from one State to another.

3. The best methods of treatment by Boards of Health in infected localities for confining diseases and preventing its spread.

This report was referred to a special committee, who presented the following resolutions for the consideration of the Conference.

Be it resolved, That each and every health organization represented in this Convention pledge itself to promptly furnish to each other all information in regard to the appearance of cholera and yellow fever, or suspicious cases of yellow fever.

We recommend that for the purpose indicated in the above resolution the following groups of symptoms shall be considered to indicate yellow fever and suspicious cases.

1. The following groups of symptoms shall be considered to indicate yellow fever:

Group 1.—A person after a sudden attack has fever of one paroxysm, attended with marked congestion or blood stasis of capillaries of surface, conjunctivæ and gums, with a history of probable exposure to infection, and no history of a previous attack of yellow fever.

Group 2.—A person after a sudden attack has a fever of one paroxysm, followed by unusual prostration, albuminous urine, yellowness of conjunctivæ or skin, and having no positively authenticated history of previous attack of yellow fever.

Group 3.—A person has a fever of one paroxysm, albuminous urine, black vomit, suppression of urine, general hemorrhagic tendency under circumstances where exposure to infection is a possibility.

II. *Suspicious cases of Yellow Fever.*—The following symptoms associated with a fever of one paroxysm in a patient who has apparently been exposed to infection, and has never had yellow fever shall be held to justify in either of the six following cases a suspicion of this disease, viz:

1. Suddenness of attack either with violent pain in the head and back, injected eyes and face, or with marked congestion of the superficial capillaries.

2. Want of that correlation between pulse and temperature usual to other forms of fever.

3. Albuminous urine.
4. Black vomit.
5. General hemorrhagic tendency.
6. Yellowness of the skin.

The following cases shall also be deemed suspicious:

7. Any case respecting which reputable and experienced physicians disagree as to whether the disease is or is not yellow fever.

8. Any case respecting which efforts are made to conceal its existence, full history and true nature.

In the event of death of a suspicious case a post-mortem examination shall be made, when practicable. Both before and after death, yellow fever is specially and preëminently characterized by the fact that it is *par excellence* a hemorrhagic fever marked by capillary congestion and its sequelæ, hence, post-mortem evidence of a general hemorrhagic tendency in internal organs, especially in the digestive, in preference to the urinary tract, shall be held to confirm the suspicion.

The above were adopted by the New Orleans Medical and Surgical Association and the Louisiana State Medical Society.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE A. KETCHUM, of Mobile,
L. F. SALOMON, of New Orleans.

When the resolutions had been submitted to the conference for action, an interesting discussion was carried on, as to the good result of a careful examination of a case suspicious of yellow fever together with a correct and immediate report of the symptoms, and then one of the main objects for which this convention had assembled would be accomplished.

The resolutions were then unanimously adopted as a whole.

CHAPTER I.
OUTBREAK OF YELLOW FEVER,

—AT—

BILOXI,
Harrison County, Miss.,
REPORT

—TO THE—

Board of Health, State of Louisiana,

—BY—

JOSEPH HOLT, M. D., President.

SEPTEMBER 8th, 1886.

The Board of Health held a regular meeting on Tuesday evening September 8th, 1886, with President Joseph Holt, M. D., in the chair, and Drs. L. H. Von Gohren, S. R. Olliphant, C. E. Kells and Messrs. J. J. Mellon, Joseph Kohn, and J. J. Barr present. Mr. Charles Marshall, Division Superintendent of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, Dr. W. W. Austin, Physician of that road, and Mr. D. E. Holt, of Finlay & Brunswick, also occupied seats near the President.

Succeeding the transaction of routine business, President Holt then stated that it became his duty to report on the action of the Board in regard to

THE BILOXI FEVER

and read the following:

To the Honorable Members of the Board of Health, State of Louisiana :

Gentlemen—I have the honor to submit the following report :

Now that a calm has succeeded the stirring events of the last week, it is proper that we should review the course of this Board in its relation to these occurrences.

As your executive officer, upon whom rests with emphasized accent the mighty responsibility of protecting the health interests, involving issues of life and death as well as the material prosperity of the 230,000 people of this city and the population of this State, I have acted in the instant of emergency with conclusive decision and have been approved and sustained by you in the wisdom of your deliberate council.

Upon the hearsay of rumor, and finding the city of New Orleans and her people along the seashore of the Mississippi Sound reported as menaced by disaster, failing to receive a speedy reply to telegrams sent, with your Secretary, Dr. L. F. Salomon, I visited the town of Biloxi, in Harrison county, Miss., to ascertain by personal investigation the ground of alarm that yellow fever had appeared there.

We reached the place after nightfall last Tuesday, August 31.

The following morning, in company with Dr. T. S. Seales, Health officer of Mobile, who had arrived during the night, we made a searching and complete examination, omitting no point of detail, besides hearing all available testimony, including that of gentlemen of unimpeachable integrity and of large experience in all that appertains to the outward signs of yellow fever.

Mindful of our official obligation, coolly and dispassionately we arranged the testimony, and weighed it with the utmost care. We then sent you the following telegram as the only conclusion deducible :

BILOXI, September 1st, 1886.

"Dr. S. R. Olliphant, Board of Health, New Orleans:

"We, the undersigned, have made a thorough examination of the seven convalescents, also of one patient now ill, and have obtained the clinical histories of the two persons who died last Sunday, August 30th. The sum of evidence indicates yellow fever as the cause of illness."

Having furnished you in full a detailed statement, let us now briefly generalize the evidence.

During the latter part of August, on the seashore of the Gulf of Mexico, a universal highway, in a town at the time perfectly healthy, and whose citizens have proclaimed, as a special inducement, their singular exemption from malarial fevers of any kind, a white lad, apparently in perfect health, went to bed as usual, and about 11 o'clock at night was seized with a chill, followed by fever of one paroxysm and three days' duration. Headache, pain in back and limbs, nausea, subsequent convalescence and no further trouble,

In the same house, within a period of seven days later, five other persons were stricken, all of them presenting a combination of symptoms identical with the first, differing only in duration, intensity and result,

During the same period, and in another house, twenty-five yards distant, four persons were taken ill in quick succession, in precisely the same way.

Six days later, a lady in a house closely neighboring, who had nursed the sick and prepared the dead in the smitten families was also taken in the same manner.

The evidence, therefore, embraced the history of eleven white persons who had never had yellow fever, living within a few yards of each other in the enjoyment of good health, suddenly and without apparent cause, taken with a fever of one paroxysm, lasting from thirty to seventy hours.

This fever while in several cases mild, was in others reported as intense. It was ushered in generally with a slight chill, declaring itself in many of the cases between the hours of 6 in the evening and 6 in the morning, and was inva-

rably associated with pains in the head, back and limbs, nausea, sometimes persistent vomiting.

In the severer cases the convalescence was characterized by great feebleness and a peculiar calmness and languor. The pulse of a convalescent adult was, at the time of our visit, sixty per minute.

A red-edged and pointed tongue, a yellowish tinge of skin and conjunctiva was manifested to our eyes. A girl of 15 had the fever three days. She would take no quinine, the doctors said. The fever passed off itself. After passing two days in a calm stage, with no fever, she died. Parents state she lay in a drowsy condition, but could be aroused by the doctor.

In the neighboring house, at the same time, a lady was taken, at 11 o'clock at night, with violent headache, pains in-back, in limbs, high fever. She had nausea, vomiting and delirium. Fever was said to have passed off after two days' duration, after which she had two convulsions; vomited one copious ejection of black matter and blood, which was expelled by a convulsive action of the stomach, without apparent effort of vomiting, immediately before her death, which occurred on the fourth day of illness. After death, jaundiced and ecchymotic patches about face and neck.

We obtained this information, a plain recital, from her husband and brother. We also saw sheets of her bed, liberally soiled with dark red and the peculiar dirty black spots unfortunately familiar to our eyes, and declared to be the matter vomited.

The husband and brother testified of this lady, and several citizens of both patients, that they were decidedly yellow after death.

Since the date of our report seven persons have been taken ill with the fever, fortunately of a mild type.

Of the ten cases which signalled the outbreak of the disease, and previous to disinfection, two died. Of the eighteen cases nine were of one household, four of another, and the two houses, as stated, only twenty-five yards apart.

In every particular the outbreak has been a perfect repetition of the sudden illness which appeared among the children of Mr. Eyrich, in the Fourth District of this city, in 1876.

The entire household fell ill in quick succession, but so mildly that the medical attendant, a gentleman of eminence, consid-

ered it malarial until a death in a neighboring family unmistakably revealed the real nature of the trouble.

The cases presented in every instance a schedule of symptoms exactly corresponding to case No. 1 of this report. About this centre occurred seventy-four cases and thirty five deaths.

It repeats the experience of 1879, beginning in the children of Mrs. John Stout, of our Fourth District. There were seven cases all of the same character, but so excessively mild as to hold in suspense the opinion of one of the most acute observers in our profession.

The diagnosis was presently revealed in the case of the young girl, Louisa Creel, who assisted in nursing them; and when on the way to visit her family near Mississippi City was also seized with a chill and fever, accompanied by the general symptoms already detailed.

Four days later she had convulsions, threw up black vomit and died. From this followed the other cases in her own and a neighboring household, six cases in one house, and two deaths.

While this was being enacted outside, here in the city the disease confirmed its nature in forty-one cases and nineteen deaths, including Gen. Hood, wife and child.

Seldom has an outbreak of yellow fever occurred on shore without a history of intemperate denial. This has always occurred and probably always will.

While men, moved by divers and contrary interest have pattered and fumed and bandied words in learned discussion, the pestilential spark has gathered strength, presently to burst upon the people in the irresistible fury of an epidemic.

All the meanness, the sordid selfishness of the human heart in the basest aspect of our fallen estate, is first made manifest in the desire to cover up, to deny, to conceal; and then, when the blaze of conflagration can no longer be suppressed, the most groveling of all the passions takes the lead and terror rules the hour. This pestilential brand sweeps the gamut, sounding every key in the human soul.

While the opinions and judgment of men may shape themselves, to square with personal interest, with all these things, we, the State officers constituting this Board, have positively nothing to do. Representing the whole people, we care nothing for affirmation or denial not emanating from ourselves, and, above all, we have asked no opinions.

By virtue of responsibility, placed high above the incentives of self, and untouched by the contradiction of men who receive their bread at the hands of those they fear to offend, we owe allegiance only to this city and State and our covenant with States.

In the present instance, so long as the people of Louisiana, of the Mississippi Valley, Texas and Alabama have escaped being outrageously hoodwinked and the consequent forfeiture likely of hundreds of lives and millions of money, the Louisiana State Board of Health is content in the consciousness of duty, promptly, boldly and thoroughly performed.

Having emptied the infected town of our citizens, and caused a vigilant cordon to be thrown around the centre of danger, together with immediate and unsparing disinfection; and now that the pestilence seems suddenly quenched, we are willing to relegate the entire matter of diagnosis to any grand sanhedrim of doctors and shopkeepers ready to take it up, "sift it to the bottom," and give us a name for this disease.

"Bilious remittent fever of a mild type, and nothing of a malignant or contagious character;" or, "probably mumps;" or, as one has suggested, "Spanish fever," contracted, no doubt, from the Spanish mackerel, so abundant in those waters.

I would suggest next week—or better still, next Christmas—as an excellent time to begin. The cases will be in better condition for examination than when we saw them, fresh in convalescence. The simple people, too, will be better coached, each in their little part.

The attending doctor will be better up in his, also; for this gentleman told us that he had taken no notes nor kept any clinical record, not dreaming of any such thing as yellow fever in cases so obviously plain and simple; however, he carefully examined the urine for albumen, he declared.

When asked by myself what test he had applied, he informed us that, having at the time no special appliances about him, he held the vessel up to a bright light, but could see nothing unusual.

All of which was eminently satisfactory to his confreres in consultation, who contemptuously ignored the idea of yellow fever as uncalled for and false, "to be ridiculous and unjustifiable."

The doctor had seen nothing vomited of a dark kind, except a little wine he had given, *which had slightly stained the sheets.*

He used the thermometer constantly, he said, particularly on one patient who had "a high fever." "The instrument indicated from one hundred to one hundred and one; may be one hundred and one and a half degrees." I am simply giving you his clinical data as furnished us.

Neither he nor his associates in observation saw any yellowness of the cadavers nor other circumstances, to justify the notion of yellow fever.

The sudden outbreak of a fever of one paroxysm and of comparatively short duration, from thirty to seventy hours, and with it as invariable concomitants, pain in head, back, limbs, nausea; the abrupt taking off of two persons after the fever had subsided and about the time a patient is usually considered convalescent; the convalescent pulse too of sixty per minute; the fact of the seizure of ten persons in two houses closely neighboring, and an eleventh in the person of one who had nursed the sick; the hour of seizure in repeated instances during night; the huge black spots on the sheets; at least, said by the family to have been vomited there; in none of these glaring signs was there to them any testimony "save of bilious remittent fever of a mild type, and nothing of a malignant or contagious character."

I present you here a circular scattered broadcast in Biloxi, along the lake coast and here in the city:

"NO YELLOW FEVER."

"There has been an uncalled for and false rumor that yellow fever has made its appearance in Biloxi, much to the alarm of visitors and citizens. There is absolutely no foundation for such a rumor, and no fever of any kind here, save a few cases of bilious remittent fever of a mild type, and nothing of a malignant or contagious character."

"We feel called upon, in justice to visitors and citizens, to make this statement."

J. B. MAYBIN, M. D.

J. J. LEMON, M. D.

Attending Physicians.

With the testimony and the distinct physical evidence we were enabled to obtain within a few hours of assiduous labor, and trembling under a weight of responsibility, we needed no

three days for the resurrection of an idea or to formulate a conclusion, but instantly threw into full action every battery of defence, and crowded the fight aggressively, knowing that the only field possible for victory was Biloxi itself; the only time for hope, that instant; and the only means, absolute isolation and disinfection. The fight was made; the means were used; the disease seems suddenly to have disappeared; and so ends all connection of this Board with the matter.

The momentous event of the past few days has now ceased to agitate the public mind, and has crystalized into definite form as history in the transactions of this Board.

In dealing with the menace of catastrophe which has just been averted, the Louisiana State Board of Health has risen to the comprehension of its own position as a guardian of an outpost.

We have left to others the patient task of searching among the ashes of a threatened conflagration; for these, having small responsibility outside themselves, and with whom time is an element of no importance, can abundantly devote investigation to the inquiries: "Was it a true alarm? Was it spontaneous combustion or the work of an incendiary? How far would it have spread had it not been put out?"

The maturely formed opinions of these, while of no practical use or consequence further than as historical curiosities of an archaeological kind, are a laudable reward for the gratuitous adventure of research.

While these have small things to gain and nothing to lose, this Board rests under a staggering weight of moral accountability to five millions of people and as the conservators of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Rather than the sacrifice of one more life to that which we saw in Biloxi we would repeat a thousand times the action of last week!

In closing my testimony, I wish to correct here an unfortunate reportorial error, in which I was made to charge delinquency and failure to comply with the terms of the compact to the Mississippi State Board of Health. Such an assertion would not only have been absolutely untrue but grossly unjust.

I made the charge against a separate organization, distinct from that of the State, but party to the pledge, the health

authorities of the Gulf coast having jurisdiction over Biloxi.

Respectfully submitted,

JOS. HOLT, M. D.,

President Board of Health, State of Louisiana.

At the close of the report Mr. Mellon arose and said that the able exposition of the action of the President and Secretary and the ground for their action in relation to the recent appearance of fever, as set forth in the report just read, had earned the gratitude and confidence of the community and was fully appreciated by the Board, and he desired that a formal expression of thanks should be made to the President and Secretary in the premises, which was done.

Mr. Mellon called for any late report of an official nature that might have been

RECEIVED FROM BILOXI.

Dr. Watkins had made no report, save to give a detailed history of each case as it daily occurred under his observation from the time of his arrival there on Friday last to the time he left there on Monday last. There were no deaths and no new cases.

The report of Sanitary Officer, L. D. Allen, showed that he had burned bedding used by the sick who had died or recovered. He had cleansed the infected premises and had disinfected them, using ten barrels of mercuric chloride solution, in a strength of eight ounces to forty gallons.

Total population inside the cordon—eighty persons of whom eighteen were affected and two died. The remainder have recovered, with the exception of three now convalescent.

Dr. L. F. Salomon, Secretary, read a

COMMUNICATION FROM THE MAYOR

transmitting the following:

BILOXI, Miss., September 7, 1886.

Hon. J. V. Guilloffe, Mayor of New Orleans:

Dear Sir.—As you were instrumental in having quarantine placed upon us without any cause, no contagious disease being here at any time, will you not use your good office in our behalf,

and thus in some manner make amends for the great wrongs inflicted on Biloxi ?

J. A. BOUSQUET, Mayor.

CHAS. PELAEZ, M. D.,

J. W. MAYBIN, M. D.,

J. J. LEMON,

Attending Physicians.

Mr. Barr, in connection with the claim made in the telegram, that quarantine had been declared at the instance of the Mayor, offered the following which was adopted :

Resolved, That the telegram from the Mayor and citizens of Biloxi to his Honor Mayor Guillotte, and by him referred to this Board, be received and filed, and that our Secretary be instructed to write to the Mayor and citizens of Biloxi, that they have done Mayor Guillotte great injustice, for he was not in the least degree instrumental in causing this Board to take any steps toward quarantining Biloxi, as the Board acted from its own high sense of duty toward the public, not considering the Mayor's letter until the quarantine had been ordered.

After some further discussion it was resolved to delay action until Saturday next, when, if the facts at Biloxi are all favorable, quarantine against Biloxi will be removed on the pledge of the authorities there, that the infected district at Point Cadet is to be kept cordoned and they are to make faithful and prompt reports of any recurrence of disease.

The Board then adjourned.

BOARD of HEALTH:

AT A SPECIAL MEETING THE EXTINCTION OF THE
FEVER AT BILOXI IS CLAIMED.

AND QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS ARE REMOVED—BILOXI IS
RELEASED FROM THE BAN.

The Board of Health held a regular meeting on Saturday, September 11, soon after noon, with President Joseph Holt, M. D., in the chair and the following members present:

Drs. S. R. Olliphant and C. E. Kells, and Messrs. J. J. Mellon, Joseph Kohn, and J. J. Barr.

Dr. Holt stated that the day which had been fixed by the Board for the consideration of the quarantine at Biloxi had arrived, and it had been made a condition of the question of consideration that the Mayor and the health authorities of Biloxi should give prompt and frank reports of any development of suspicious fever which might occur there in connection with the recent outbreak. There had existed at Biloxi a fever capable of producing death in four days, (call it what they may, and it was the duty of this Board to exercise every precaution to prevent a spread of the disease. The testimony now seemed to show that the disease had been stamped out by the prompt action of the Board.

Mr. L. D. Allen, sanitary officer of the Board, who had been sent to Biloxi at the time of this visit of Drs. Holt and Salmon, provided with proper chemicals, with orders to disinfect the premises where the fever had appeared, had remained there attending his duties until Saturday morning. He had just returned from Biloxi and was present at the meeting. He reported that the fever had entirely disappeared from the infected district, which he had thoroughly disinfected during his stay there.

Dr. Salomon, the secretary, stated that, in pursuance of a resolution passed at the last meeting, he had sent copies of the following communication to the Hon. J. A. Bousquet, Mayor of Biloxi, and to Dr. J. J. Harry, President of the Harrison County Board of Health.

OFFICE BOARD OF HEALTH, }
New Orleans, Sept. 8, 1886. }

Dear Sir—I am instructed by the Board of Health of the State of Louisiana to inform you that it is the desire of said Board to remove the quarantine restrictions now existing against the town of Biloxi at as early a date as is consistent with safety.

With that end in view, you are requested to assure said Board of Health that you will keep it informed as to the occurrence of any new cases of sickness in the infected district at Cadet Point, or neighborhood, and also that said district shall be kept isolated, and no communication allowed between it and the rest of Biloxi until such time as all danger of infection has passed.

Very respectfully,

LUCIEN F. SALOMON, M. D.,
Secretary Louisiana State Board of Health.

Mayor Bousquet replied to this on September 9, as follows:

“In answer to communication of 8th instant, I beg leave to report all cases at Cadet Point well.

“Quarantine restrictions and sanitary measures are being kept up by the State of Mississippi. *We promise to keep the district quarantined and report any other case which may occur in that neighborhood.*

In reply to this, Dr. Holt sent the following:

“Upon the promise set forth in your telegram, the Board will take action at 12 o'clock Saturday next. Your telegram is satisfactory.”

Dr. J. J. Harry replied as follows:

HANDBORO, September 9, 1886.

Dear Sir—Yours of the 8th to hand; contents noted. In reply will say that we are very glad to know that the quarantine against Biloxi will be raised at so early a day. *I will promise your Board, as we have done heretofore, to inform you if we do have any yellow fever or cases resembling the same, but I do not*

think that you need fear any outbreak of yellow fever in Biloxi, for I am positive there are localities along our coast that have the same fever every summer, and with the history of those cases that have occurred before me, am sure they are not yellow fever. Isolation, therefore, will be useless, but we propose to keep a watch over them until Saturday next, at which time, unless there is some cause to prolong our notice of them, all restriction will be removed.

Very respectfully,

(Signed).

J. J. HARRY, M. D.,

President Harrison County Board of Health.

Dr. Holt called the special attention of the Board of Health to this communication, and said :

Notwithstanding the widespread assurance given out to the whole country that this coast is at all times wonderfully free from fevers of any kind, yet here we have, from the highest source, official declaration that as an occasion of no uncommon occurrence the people are liable to invasions of this fever, just such as we saw, attacking at times whole families, and which has proven itself under our eyes, in this instance, potent to kill, and that within three or four days, *even after the fever had left the patient*. However mildly those who are accustomed to the visitation are pleased to regard it, to our thinking, it ranks with an African jungle fever in some of its features, and is too dangerous to be trifled with by Mobile and New Orleans.

We will accept it under the name given it by the United States Marine Hospital Service, according to a recent telegram, as a new disease, called "Spanish Fever," and demand that to the list of small pox, cholera, and yellow fever, as quarantinable diseases, this "Spanish Fever" be immediately added.

Some of its symptoms, particularly the fevers of one paroxysm, its decline, and subsequently convulsions, black vomit and death, are sufficient for us.

The following telegram and communication were also read and filed :

BILOXI, Miss., September 10, 1886.

To Dr. Joseph Holt :

All patients in infected district well. No new case.

J. A. BOUSQUET, Mayor.

BILOXI, Miss., September 11, 1886.

To Dr. Holt :

Patients in infected district well. No new case. We look forward to a favorable action from your Board.

J. A. BOUSQUET, Mayor.

OFFICE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH, }
Jackson, Miss., Sept 10, 1886. }

Dr. Joseph Holt, President Board of Health State of Louisiana :

Please accept our thanks for the full and complete manner in which you have corrected the erroneous report of your remarks. We desire to inform you that our inspector at Biloxi telegraphed us on the 8th inst., that all the cases of fever were well, that the work of disinfection had been most thorough and complete and all other sanitary measures had been carried out. He expresses the opinion that there is no necessity to continue our quarantine of the infected district. We have replied that we deem it best to keep those who have been exposed under surveillance until noon Sunday next, which will be the tenth day since the last case occurred, when, if no new case occurs, the restrictions may be removed.

Very truly yours,

WIRT JOHNSTON, Secretary.

Mr. Allen, who had been representing the Board at Cadet Point, being present, reported verbally that he had left Biloxi last Friday night, and that the sanitary condition of Cadet Point was good. There had been ten houses all together in which the disease had appeared, and all had been thoroughly disinfected.

All the sick were up and around except Mrs. Elder, who was still an invalid. There had been no recurrence nor had there been any new cases.

On the assurances of the Mayor and those of Dr. Harry, Mr. Barr offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted :

Whereas, there have been no new cases of fever at Cadet Point, Biloxi, since September 3d ; and

Whereas, Sanitary Officer L. D. Allen reports that there are no sick in the lately infected locality ; and

Whereas, this Board has the pledge of his honor the Mayor of Biloxi, to immediately inform it of the occurrence of any *new cases of suspicious fever* in said district : therefore be it

Resolved, That the quarantine restrictions recently imposed by this Board against the town of Biloxi be and are hereby removed.

The Board then adjourned and Dr. Holt sent the following telegram to the Mayor of Biloxi and the health officers of the various Southern States :

Quarantine restrictions of New Orleans against Biloxi are removed by order of the Board of Health, State of Louisiana.

JOSEPH HOLT, M. D., President.

Resolutions of the Citizens of Biloxi.

BILOXI, September 15, 1886.

Pursuant to a call issued for a mass meeting of the citizens of Biloxi to consider the action taken by the Louisiana State Board of Health, over 200 persons attended at Firemen's Hall last night.

A committee of three was appointed to ascertain, if possible, who sent the telegram to Dr. Holt asking him to visit Biloxi and examine cases of yellow fever.

The following resolutions were read and unanimously adopted :

Whereas, the New Orleans Times, Picayune and States, in their editorials commenting upon the report and action of Drs. Holt, Scales and Salomon, are apt to mislead the public, and a great wrong and infamous action condoned and made to appear as a judicious and wise measure—not saying the editors of the named papers are responsible for this subterfuge, but desirous that the blame should rest upon the principal and the veil of deception be raised ; therefore be it

Resolved, That to Drs. Holt, Scales and Salomon, by their action in refusing to credit the opinions and diagnosis of Drs. Lemon and Maybin, physicians of our town, and placing reliance and trust in the opinions of two or three persons unknown to us, thereby discrediting members of their profession, are justly due the censure and opinion formed of them by this community, and the great outrage perpetrated, perhaps willingly or otherwise, should be visited with the severest penalties, and our regret is that such heinous offenses against the public welfare are not provided for by law.

Resolved, That the casual observations made at the supposed infected locality covering perhaps two hours in all (as the gentlemen arrived on the 7 P. M. train on Wednesday, the 1st, and remained at the Montross Hotel until 7:15 A. M. on the 2d, and returned at 10 A. M. same morning from their examination), was not sufficient time to form an opinion, other than conform one already in a fair state of preparation, gives no credit to the gentlemen themselves or their profession.

Resolved, That the injury inflicted upon the visitors by the false report, forcing them at a moment's notice to fly the town, will long be remembered by our friends in the Crescent City, and whom we ask to sustain the great head of a badly damaged Health Board, and thus encourage such feats as attempted in New Orleans in 1883 and again in 1885 and repeated here in 1886; while we encourage the right and under no circumstances would shield the truth, we care not to be made the martyrs of any man's or men's pet schemes.

Resolved, That we call attention of the good people of this entire section to the report of Drs. Maybin, Lemon, Pelaez, Aldrich, of Biloxi; Dr. Harry, Handsboro; Dr. Formento, New Orleans; Dr. Godfrey, Louisville, to attest to the truthfulness of our statement that no signs or trace of yellow fever has been found in our poor, unfortunate, condemned town, always noted for its health, and which to-day compares favorably with the most favored spot of God's green earth.

Resolved, That the other towns on the coast may not be afflicted with a visit from the gentlemen in search of germs, especially when they figure in the imagination, and reason gives way to prejudice, as was our cause.

Resolved, That the citizens of Ocean Springs, to whom we extended the hand of fellowship in the memorable year of 1878, are entitled to the disgust and contempt of every citizen of Biloxi, and their meritorious shotgun brigade will not soon be forgotten by the men, women and children of their own county who were forced from their firesides and homes upon the cold charities of the world for plying their avocations in Biloxi prior to and a few days after the establishment of that infamous order.

Resolved, That the working people of Biloxi, in being deprived of many day's work by the refusal of the manly element of Ocean Springs in permitting fishing upon the shores of

Jackson county and cutting off the base of supplies, thereby shutting down the factories, will ever bear in mind this kind and humane treatment, and hope no good will ever come to the doers of this wrong.

Resolved, That the thanks of this community be extended to Drs. Lemon, Maybin, Pelaez and Aldrich, of Biloxi; Dr. Harry, of Handsboro; Dr. Formento, of New Orleans; Dr. Godfrey, of Louisville, for the interest taken in behalf of a wronged community, and for the earnest attention shown in establishing the truth as to the character of the sickness reported in Biloxi.

Resolved, That the Mississippi State Board of Health in ignoring the opinion of the resident physicians and giving credence to that of the visiting gentlemen, cast a slur upon the character of their profession, and assisted thereby in giving color to the false report, and instead of assisting us, as in duty bound, lent a helping hand to the cruel and unmistakable outrage, and we desire to call the attention of the citizens of the whole State to this unprofessional and unjustifiable wrong perpetrated upon the citizens of this town, with the hope such actions in the future may not be added to the glory of our State Board of Health.

Resolved, That the papers of the South, North, East and West publish these resolutions and accept in payment the thanks of an injured community.

On motion, the above resolutions were ordered printed in the New Orleans Picayune, Times-Democrat, German Gazette, Jackson Clarion, Biloxi Herald and Mobile Register.

THE VIEWS OF DR. FORMENTO.

The following dispatch to the Picayune, from a distinguished physician of this city, was received last evening :

BILOXI, Miss., September 1, 1886.

At the request of Drs. Lemon and Maybin, attending Physicians, I visited to-day several cases of fever at Point Cadet, near Dunbar's Shrimp Factory. I found nine persons—five adults and four children—up and about, who were presumed to have had yellow fever, and one child of four years, taken sick this morning with symptoms of ordinary malarial fever. None of the nine convalescents presented any marked symp-

toms of yellow fever, black vomit, hemorrhage or suppression of urine. The disease lasted from eighteen to twenty-four hours, the patient recovering without relapse or accident. One woman, seven months pregnant, recovered in forty-eight hours. There were two deaths last Sunday, occurring in delicate, sickly women, presenting the same symptoms, who refused taking either purgatives or quinine in sufficient doses.

From all this I concur in the opinion of the attending physicians, of malarial fevers, and believe quarantine against Biloxi to be ridiculous and unjustifiable.

Dr. F. FORMENTO,

CHAPTER II.

HOW THE PLEDGE WAS KEPT

—AND—

THE RESULTS.

QUARANTINE.

The prevailing sickness at Biloxi leads the Board of Health to again declare Quarantine against Harrison County, Mississippi.

A Careful Examination of the Facts.

The Board of Health held a special meeting on Sunday, October 17th. Dr. Joseph Holt, President, was in the chair, and Drs. S. R. Olliphant and C. E. Kells, and Messrs. Joseph A. Shakspeare, J. J. Barr, J. J. Mellon and A. Voorhies were present.

The President upon calling the meeting to order stated that he had heard from a number of different sources of the prevalence of a fatal fever in Biloxi, which had, within a very short period, attracted public attention and public apprehensions, not only in Biloxi, but in neighboring towns, and it was reported to be yellow fever. He then called attention to special telegrams which he read from the morning Picayune, giving information of the death of several persons from this fever at Biloxi. Following were the telegrams:

BILOXI, MISS., Oct. 16.

[Special to the Picayune.]—Mrs. S. S. Lemon, a most estimable lady and wife of Dr. J. J. Lemon, died in Biloxi this morning at 1 o'clock, after an illness of eight days, and was buried this afternoon.

Another death occurred yesterday—that of a man named Sweeny. Both cases were of the type of illness which has prevailed to some extent since the middle of August.

MISSISSIPPI CITY, Oct. 16.

[Special to the Picayune.] Mr. L. J. Sumpter, of Biloxi, Miss., died of bilious fever this morning, near the Barnes' hotel in this place. He was taken sick some days ago, but being absent from his home, he did not have proper attention and diet until it was too late to benefit him. He was a tin and sheet iron worker, and made his living going from door to door seeking work where he could find it, exposing himself to all kinds of weather, and sleeping wherever night would catch him, consequently his constitution was in a wrecked condition.

Dr. Holt also announced that Mr. William G. Walker, the representative of the Times-Democrat, resident at Mississippi City, was present, and the Board could hear a statement which had been made by him on the subject.

Mr. Walker, in reply to questions, related the circumstances of the death, on Saturday, of J. L. Sumpter, a tin and sheet iron worker at Mississippi City. Sumpter had been at that place for some weeks repairing and putting up stoves. He had some children at Biloxi, and, on last Sunday, the 10th instant, Sumpter had gone to Biloxi to look after one of his children reported sick. The child died, and after his return on Thursday morning last he was on the streets complaining of sickness. During the day he had a chill, accompanied by intense fever. That evening he was placed in charge of nurses by order of the President of the Harrison County Board of Health, and although every medical attention was given the patient, he died Saturday morning, after having black vomit. The general belief is the man died of yellow fever.

Mr. Keith, one of the nurses, said he died from yellow fever.

Mr. Walker also stated that there had been throughout an evident disposition on the part of the Board of Health of the county to suppress information with regard to the character of the disease prevailing at Biloxi, and that when he had questioned Dr. Harry as to the nature of the sickness of which Sumpter died, the reply was that his death was occasioned simply by a case of aggravated malarial fever.

Mr. Walker said that there were reports of a great many cases of fever at Biloxi, and that it was understood to be in almost every family. He would say that he had heard of 200 or 275 cases, but to be moderate he would say 100 cases with thirty or forty deaths. It had been reported that Dr. Pelaez had treated 100 cases alone. He mentioned the death of Mrs. Dr. Lemon also. He further stated that citizens of Mississippi City were much wrought up on the subject and they wished the sickness at Biloxi investigated so that measures for protection could be taken, if necessary. It was impossible to get information from the Health Authorities at Biloxi. The witness was questioned by Dr. Holt, Capt. Mellon and other members of the Board.

At this juncture, Mr. Charles Marshall, Division Superin-

tendent of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, who had been sent for by the Board, came in. President Holt told him that there were reports of a serious and suspicious fever prevailing at Biloxi, in which his road was interested, and he had been requested to be present at the meeting.

Mr. Marshall was asked if he had heard anything of this fever. He replied that, on the receipt of the notification, he had at once had a telegraphic conversation with the operator at Biloxi on the subject. He had just heard, through the operator, of the prevalence of this sickness which had become a subject of alarm and anxiety. There were reported to be some thirty or forty cases of fever at present, and there had been a personal difficulty between the two prominent physicians, Drs. Maybin and Lemon, on the propriety of declaring the disease to be yellow fever.

Dr. Holt called attention to the specific and formal agreement made with the health authorities of Harrison county that they were to give immediate and faithful information of the first appearance of yellow fever or of suspicious fever in their borders. This pledge had been totally disregarded and violated. The Board of Health of Louisiana stands as a bulwark between the people of the great Valley and this danger. This Board was bound to do its duty, let come what may, and that in his judgment the Board should act at once.

Dr. Olliphant thought that, in view of the situation, prompt steps for protection should be taken, and, after some discussion, it was resolved to declare quarantine against Biloxi, to take effect at once, and to take measures to investigate the disease there. The following offered by Mr. Shakspeare was adopted as an official communication to the authorities of Harrison county, in which Biloxi is situated:

BOARD OF HEALTH,
State of Louisiana, }
New Orleans, Oct. 17, 1886. }

To Florian Seal, Sheriff, and Police Authorities, Harrison County, Mississippi:

Gentlemen—The numerous reports of a fatal form of fever prevailing in Biloxi, believed by informants to be yellow fever, the asserted spread of the disease to localities beyond that town, including the recent death from fever of a man in Mississippi City, shortly after his arrival from Biloxi, compel the

Louisiana State Board of Health, in behalf of public safety, to take cognizance of current reports, and to act with decision in the performance of a duty.

You are hereby respectfully notified that from and after this date no person, baggage or freight will be permitted by rail or otherwise to enter this State from Harrison county, Miss., pending a thorough and satisfactory investigation of the truth as to the prevalence of a fever in or about Biloxi at present or at any time since September 6 ult., and if true, the full history and exact nature of the same.

This action of the Louisiana State Board of Health will not be reconsidered except upon an official report from the Commission of Experts for the diagnosis of cholera and yellow fever—a body duly authorized and commissioned by the health authority of Louisiana.

An invitation for an investigation of the alleged fever, emanating from yourselves and extended to the said commission, coupled with a guaranty of friendly reception and of vigorous and unrestrained assistance in obtaining testimony, will receive instant attention.

By order of the Board of Health, State of Louisiana :

[Signed].

JOSEPH HOLT, M. D.,

President.

The following communication was addressed to the Mayors of Bay St. Louis and Ocean Springs:

BOARD OF HEALTH,
State of Louisiana,
NEW ORLEANS, La., Oct. 17, 1886. }

To His Honor the Mayor :

Sir—You are hereby respectfully notified that on account of the reported existence of yellow fever in Harrison County, Miss., the Board of Health of the State of Louisiana has this day proclaimed quarantine against that county pending an investigation.

You are further notified that in the event of persons being allowed to enter your town or its incorporated vicinity, by rail or otherwise, from the said Harrison county during the continuance of the aforementioned quarantine, the health authority of Louisiana will impose upon your town the same quarantine restrictions, preventing communication with Louisiana.

By order of the Board of Health State of Louisiana :

JOSEPH HOLT, M. D., President.

Notification of quarantine to commence at the close of the 17th of October was given to Railroad Superintendent Marshall, and the President was empowered to place health inspectors on all trains bringing passengers into the city by way of the railway from Biloxi.

The Board then adjourned.

BILOXI.

OVER 300 CASES AND 18 DEATHS SINCE AUGUST 20.

THE DIFFERENCES OF THE DOCTORS—THE EXODUS OF SUMMER BOARDERS TO NEW ORLEANS.

BILOXI, Miss., October 17.

[Special to the N. O. Picayune.]--For the past week there has been considerable talk and comment on our streets about the prevailing fever which has existed in Biloxi since about the 20th of August.

From information received from two of our local physicians your correspondent learns that there have been over 300 cases of fever up to date, with a mortality from all causes of about eighteen. The two physicians interested decline to give a positive opinion as to the nature of the disease and there is considerable division of opinion among those citizens who have come in contact with it. Another local physician is emphatic and positive in his declaration that the disease existing is malarial bilious fever, while still another contends that it is yellow fever.

To-day no new cases have been reported, while those now sick are getting along favorably. In some cases there is a lack of proper nursing and attention, and a meeting of the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor was called this afternoon for the purpose of devising ways and means of furnishing proper assistance to the indigent sick. Owing to some misunderstanding the Board failed to meet, but a committee was afterwards appointed to act.

In order to get at the bottom facts in the cases of fever, a member of the Board of Aldermen left for New Orleans this afternoon for the purpose of getting an expert to come here and investigate the disease, and it is hoped that Dr. Holliday will be induced to come.

Dr. Wilkinson, President of the Pass Christian Board of Health, was here yesterday and visited the children sick in the Cox family. *He pronounces the disease to be yellow fever.* The opinion of another local physician, emphatically expressed, is that the disease is bilious malarial fever, while that of still another is that it is yellow fever.

Ocean Springs, through a mass meeting of her citizens to-day, also established a shotgun quarantine against this place to take effect at once.

THE DISEASE OFFICIALLY PROCLAIMED TO BE YELLOW FEVER.

HANDBORO, Miss., Monday October 18, 1886.

To Joseph Holt, M. D., President of the Board of Health, State of Louisiana:

I have examined to-day two cases of fever at Biloxi, and pronounce them yellow fever,

J. J. HARRY, M. D.,

President Harrison County Board of Health.

The following reply was sent:

We have been sufficiently informed, since Saturday last, that you have seen two cases of yellow fever.

JOSEPH HOLT, M. D.,

President Board of Health.

DR. HARRY'S OFFICIAL DECLARATION OF YELLOW FEVER AT BILOXI.

WHICH JUSTIFIES DR. HOLT IN HIS PRESENT ATTITUDE.

The following letter was received at the office of the Board of Health yesterday.

FROM DR. J. J. HARRY,

President of the Board of Health of Harrison County, Miss.:

HANDBORO, Miss., October 18.

Dr. Joseph Holt, President Louisiana State Board of Health, New Orleans, La.:

Dear Sir—Your communication of the 17th inst., addressed

to Hon. Florian Seal, Sheriff, was handed me to-day, on my return from Biloxi. We would have gladly welcomed the Committee of Experts when the first suspicious case occurred, and have wondered why you did not desire them to visit the so-called infected town, but now I deem it unnecessary.

I reported to you this evening by telegram the result of my visit. I was astonished when I visited the town to learn of the large number of cases that had occurred of this fever, and which had been undoubtedly suppressed. From all sources I estimate there have been about three hundred cases and eighteen deaths. The disease has spread all over the town and is of a very mild type and yields readily to treatment.

In reference to the man that died at Mississippi City, I saw him only a few hours before death and obtained a very imperfect history of the case. He was in Biloxi Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening, and came to Mississippi City on the excursion train. He had a chill next morning, followed by high fever which was repeated every day until Friday evening about 4 o'clock. When I first saw him he was in a drowsy comatose condition, but could be aroused. He had had no medicine at all nor any attention. At my visit, there was no fever, entire suppression of urine, tongue black, hard and dry, and breath very offensive. I took charge of him, placed a nurse with him and a guard around the house with instructions to allow no one to come near. He died a few hours afterward and I had him buried very soon, all bedding and clothes burned, and the house thoroughly fumigated. I do not say the man died of yellow fever, but I thought it necessary to use the above precaution.

I regret exceedingly that the circumstances have changed and will not bear me out in my former letter to you, for I did not believe it yellow fever until to-day. The local physicians still disagree. Dr. Maybin denies that it is yellow fever. Dr. Pelaez concurred with Champlin and myself but would not publicly pronounce it yellow fever. I am sorry to have been deceived by the local authorities, all of whom promised to inform our Board if there were other cases, but not a single case has been reported to us.

Dr. Pelaez claims to have contended that it is yellow fever, and privately stated the fact to me, and will not even now acknowledge it publicly. I am of the opinion that it has been

suppressed by the physicians through fear. Pelaez, I believe to be a competent physician on whom I have relied for information, but he is physically and morally a coward.

Yours very respectfully,

J. J. HARRY.

In reference to the above Dr. Holt states that "the letter needs very little comment, for according to Dr. Harry's own admission there has been a willful and studied violation of all pledges made to the Board of Health of Louisiana.

"Dr. Harry himself treated a case in Mississippi City in which he found it necessary to take all the precautions following upon a death from yellow fever, and yet in the face of his written promise to report even a single case of fever resembling those of the first outbreak of the disease," "nothing was said of this case by him until to-day, long after its occurrence was known from other sources.

"Dr. Harry's statement that there have been at least three hundred cases in Biloxi shows to what length the criminal efforts at concealment were carried. It is too late for Dr. Harry's admission and attempt to cover his fault long after the facts given in his letter are known."

This is the position now occupied by the Louisiana Board of Health, and explains why Dr. Holt as its executive officer positively refuses to recognize or have anything to do in any manner whatsoever with the authorities of Harrison county.

THE BILOXI AUTHORITIES INVITE THE EXPERTS TO COME OVER.

DR. HOLT'S REPLY.

Last night the following telegram was received at the office of the Board of Health from the municipal authorities at Biloxi :

BILOXI, Miss., October 20, 1886.

Dr. Joseph Holt, President Louisiana Board of Health, New Orleans :

At a special meeting of the Biloxi Town Council, held to-day it was unanimously resolved that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen respectfully solicit that, the Commission of Experts

appointed by the Louisiana health authorities, visit Biloxi at their earliest convenience and investigate the prevailing illness now existing in Biloxi. The Board guarantees that every courtesy will be shown them and assistance rendered them within the power of the Board.

PHIL, McCABE, Acting Mayor.

NEW ORLEANS, October 20, 1886.

Dr. Holt returned the following reply :

To Phil. McCabe, Acting Mayor, and Aldermen of Biloxi, Miss. :

In reply to your invitation I must state that the duty of the Louisiana State Commission of Experts is specifically limited to the diagnosis alone of cholera and yellow fever.

The diagnosis of the Biloxi fever has been completed by your State and county authorities and announced as yellow fever.

This precludes the possibility of complying with your request.

JOSEPH HOLT, M. D.,

President Board of Health State of Louisiana.

PETITION OF CITIZENS OF MISSISSIPPI CITY, MISS., ASKING
THAT QUARANTINE AGAINST THAT TOWN BE
RAISED, AND THE REPLY OF

DR. JOSEPH HOLT.

President Board of Health, State of Louisiana.

The following petition from the citizens of Mississippi City to the Louisiana State Board of Health was answered yesterday by Dr. Joseph Holt in the letter published after it :

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, }
County of Harrison, }
MISSISSIPPI CITY, Oct. 22, 1886. }

To the Board of Health of Louisiana, New Orleans, La. :

Gentlemen—Feeling that it is due the citizens of Mississippi City and vicinity that quarantine be raised against us by your Board, having *no* sickness of *any kind* here, and *no* sickness of *any kind* having occurred here, of even a *suspicious* character, except that of the man Sumpter, who had been to Biloxi,

and who died here one week since, the facts of whose case have been reported to your Board, we desire to pledge ourselves to keep up and maintain the rigid quarantine established against the town of Biloxi and to further pledge ourselves to report any and all cases of even a suspicious character to your Board which may occur in our midst, and ask that the quarantine established against us be raised.

Respectfully, etc.,

Calvit Roberts,	W. G. Evans, Jr.,	Charles Smedes,
H. P. Atkins,	H. Taylor & Co.,	F. Taylor,
H. Lienhard,	J. T. Liddle & Son,	Jas M. Winship,
Jas. DeBuys,	T. J. Stewart,	C. Phelps,
Liddle & Hand,	C. M. Liddle,	W. T. Prince,
H. Hayward, M. D.,	W. B. Hayward,	S. D. Moody,
	L. H. Hayward.	

OFFICE BOARD OF HEALTH,)
New Orleans, Oct. 25, 1886.)

To Messrs. Calvit Roberts, W. G. Evans, Jr., T. J. Stewart, and others,
Citizens of Mississippi City, Miss. :

Gentlemen—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, at this moment, of your communication of the 22d instant.

The same shall be duly submitted to the Board of Health of the State of Louisiana at its next regular meeting.

In the meantime it is proper that I should hereby address you on the question presented, being thoroughly informed of the sentiments in relation thereto entertained by the gentlemen comprising this Board.

(Permit me to remark here, parenthetically, that I send this reply as a duty, and not unmindful of my own sensibilities in behalf of friends among you, closely related in my affections.)

In the first place, and while disclaiming any intention of reflection or criticism aimed at you personally, you surely recognize the prime fact that, as a body, you are not representative of any department of your State or county governments.

Being simply citizens, in an individual capacity, irresponsible and, therefore, not legally invested with powers to treat, you are not competent to negotiate with the State of Louisiana, an independent sovereign; certainly in all that appertains to its own interior police regulations.

In whatever light you may be pleased to regard this matter

in the line of your own behalf we, as an organic element of this government, are compelled to guide ourselves, not by personal inclination, but by diplomatic usage, such as prevails in all of our relations, international and interstate.

In the case presented by you we can treat only with the lawfully constituted authorities of Mississippi.

A brief explanation will answer the question whether or not we can entertain propositions from the authorities of Harrison county, Mississippi.

On the 3d day of June, 1884, in the City of New Orleans, the five States of the Gulf and Tennessee and the three seashore counties of Mississippi (the latter included because of some anomaly in your State regulations), each represented by commissioners duly appointed and sitting in conference, entered into a covenant, binding themselves to furnish each other an immediate notification of any case of pestilential infection, or of one reasonably suspicious of pestilential infection, which might at any time appear within their respective borders.

This treaty was distinctly defined in a series of resolutions drawn with great care. The spirit and letter of these resolutions were clearly expounded and thoroughly understood. Their simplicity rendered it impossible for them to be misunderstood.

Louisiana, at great momentary inconvenience and sacrifice, has repeatedly fulfilled every jot and tittle of the law.

Upon the very first occasion of a test, however, Harrison county has not only failed in obedience in the fulfillment of its obligation, but the identical authorities, party to the compact, have countenanced and have conspired in the concealment of pestilential infection by process of equivocation and suppression of truth, so persistently and so successfully maintained, as to have fostered an epidemic of yellow fever, until the disease became a widespread conflagration, too glaring to be longer hidden from the outside world.

As the result, the entire mercantile movement of Louisiana has been injuriously disturbed; her people kept in instant jeopardy of their lives; the whole country, from the Rio Grande to the great lakes of the North, agitated with grave apprehension, and universal discomfort made to prevail.

Transmission of a few cases of yellow fever from your centres of infection to New Orleans would cost us millions of dol-

lars, paralyzing our industries and entailing upon the families of an energetic and hard-working people incalculable misery; not to speak of the lives of our citizens, which we esteem above the price of money.

Mississippi on the North; Alabama, Florida and Georgia to the eastward, are in like predicament with ourselves.

Not only have the poorer classes of your own county been reduced to sudden want, but innocent and defenceless lives of women and children have already been sacrificed, needlessly, wantonly and with a heartless indifference perfectly appalling. Suffering and sorrow have been accounted as nothing against the grasping of a few dollars. For illustration and reflection, see the following:

ANOTHER DEATH FROM THE FEVER AT BILOXI.

BILOXI, October 21, 1886.

“ [Special to the Times Democrat]—Mrs. Edwards, wife of Mr. Henry Edwards, Superintendent or Manager of the Barataria Canning Factory, died this morning, after an illness of about ten days, of the prevailing fever. This is the first death that has occurred since the 16th instant. The deceased lady was from Cleveland, O., where she had been spending the summer and had returned home only two or three weeks ago. Mr. Edwards, it is said, had been assured by advisers, on whose opinions he relied, that the prevailing disease was not of an infectious or dangerous character, and on the faith of this advice had sent for his family to return home. ”

In the tragic events of the past nine weeks all that has happened, and is yet possible to happen, is the outcome of a cool, calculated, deliberate falsehood, invented by convenient and superserviceable agents dominated in the local interests of Biloxi, represented in barrooms, hostelrys, boarding-houses and other real estate.

This falsehood was adopted as the policy of the Town Council of Biloxi, and was finally accepted and endorsed by the Harrison County Board of Health in the series of resolutions here appended:

BOARD OF HEALTH,
Harrison County, Miss., }
September 8, 1886. }

Whereas, at its last session, Saturday, September 4, 1886,

the Board of Health of Harrison County, Miss., not yielding its own opinion in the matter, but in deference to the excited condition of the minds of the citizens of Mississippi City and vicinity, reluctantly declared quarantine against Biloxi, not as a quarantine against yellow fever, but as a quarantine against the stoppage of trains at Mississippi City and other stations ; and

Whereas, in view of the fact that the local physicians of Biloxi have maintained from the beginning the non-existence of that disease in their town, and have been backed by the opinion of Dr. Formento, yellow fever expert, and later by that of Dr. Godfrey, of the United States Marine Hospital service ; and

Whereas, incalculable and irreparable damage has been done, not only to Biloxi, but to our whole sea coast by the wavering, uncertain opinions of visiting physicians ; therefore, be it

Resolved, That with regret we view the course that public excitement has forced us to take against Biloxi and deplore the "*conscientious pledge*" of Dr. Holt to report all cases of "*suspicious*" fevers to the world, a "*pledge*" that will quarantine us every summer, for "*suspicious*" fever can be found anywhere without much effort.

Resolved, That the foregoing resolutions be published in the New Orleans Times-Democrat and Picayune.

A correct copy.

These falsifiers, including all who aided and abetted them, in the adroitness and rare skill exhibited in the execution of their specialty as experts, have betrayed a natural aptness and order of ability not to be found except in the trained masters of their art. All fair-minded persons are compelled to accord to them the hearty recognition and acknowledgement of their claims to true genius in the possession of a trait so predominant, indeed, as to suggest in their case that singular law of compensation sometimes shown in great mathematicians and philologists, unfitting them for other occupations in life. They have commanded the wonder, if not the admiration, of the world !

Under the counsel and direction of the authorities and more energetic citizens of Biloxi, the salutary measures of isolation and disinfection inaugurated by the Louisiana State Board of Health, on September 1, ultimo, at the time of the original

outbreak of yellow fever, were discontinued, and the pestilence, although successfully quenched in the locality of primary infection, was allowed, subsequently, to take its own course, without the slightest effort to stay its progress.

When the pestilential spark appeared in the town proper, as we had forewarned the authorities and doctors it was likely, nay, almost certain to do, on account of the free communication which had existed with the distant area of infection; in the face of the most solemn promises of notification, isolation and disinfection, if such should occur, immediately, when our backs were turned, active measures of repression by the usual course of concealment, denunciatory denial and intimidation, commonly called "*bullboozing*" were substituted for the more rational and safer methods already established.

The disease spread, because they did nothing to prevent its spread, but on the contrary, they selected the unfortunate course, most likely to accomplish that result.

Now, gentlemen, to return to the subject of your letter, or proposition. In order to consummate an agreement, a word of pledge or word of honor is essential.

A word of itself alone is mere breath until spiritualized by a moral force. *A man's word squares exactly with his morality.*

Those authorities cannot give a pledge, for they have no word; it has been destroyed. Having pledged their honor and forfeited the pledge, they stand helpless and pitiable in their relations to their fellow men. They fail to recognize promises such as would be held inviolable, even by barbarous tribes.

With the repetition of such conduct as this Biloxi matter, it is useless for States to make appropriations and devise ways for the protection of the public welfare; it is useless for merchants to unite in a "Shipping and Industrial League," to open up new avenues of trade; it is useless for progressive capitalists to talk of investments in manufacturing enterprises along the Gulf coast and in contiguous regions; and, above all, it is useless for the vast working populations of these Gulf cities and towns to hope for an established improvement in steady occupation for the future, if their only hope of defence is to be broken down and destroyed by inns, barrooms and oyster shops.

The people of the Mississippi Valley look to this Board of

Health for protection to the full extent of human power to give; and, knowing our whole duty in behalf of these millions of people, we wage relentless war upon enemies who would betray them to overwhelming disaster.

Failing to find in the broken pledges of those authorities, of those legally appointed officers, the assurance which our necessity demands, the State of Louisiana will now seek from the protecting hand of the

“POWER ON HIGH”

the guaranty vouched for when “He scattereth the hoar-frost like ashes. He casteth forth his ice like morsels.”

The time for our renewed association is, therefore, referred to the “Higher Power.”

As to those who have brought this about, it is not my province, nor does it belong to the Board of Health, to sit in judgment upon the actions of these men.

While it is sufficient for us to protect ourselves, it is well to remember that an indignant nation calls them in criminal arraignment before the bar of public opinion, a court whose utterances are imperative, and from whose decision there is no appeal; and may the Lord have mercy on their souls!

I will not pain you longer, gentlemen, by a continuance of this unhappy letter. Many of you are my near personal friends; and all of us, who constitute our Board of Health, deeply deplore the situation.

Closing this letter, we can only do so with the renewed assurance of our sustained sympathy and quarantine.

Yours very truly,

JOS. HOLT, M. D.,

President Board of Health, State of Louisiana.

“To suggest such a thing was to incur the risk of personal denunciation and even of ugly and unseemly threats.”

An Editorial from the }
BILOXI HERALD, Oct. 23d, 1886. }

After the alarm, caused by the outbreak of fever near Point Cadet, in latter part of August, and the death of two persons

on the 29th of that month, had subsided, and the quarantine imposed on Biloxi had been removed, there was no excitement nor uneasiness felt for some weeks. All the original cases, except the two just referred to, had recovered, and it was fondly hoped that the danger was all over. Gradually, however, other cases of sickness began to appear in various parts of the town. Most of these were of a very mild, and many of them of a trivial sort. They occurred chiefly among children—in some cases young infants. Although, perhaps, this circumstance really rendered them more suspicious, as showing that adults protected by a previous attack of yellow fever, were comparatively exempt, yet it was not so regarded. Some few deaths began to occur, but a majority of the local physicians attributed these to "malarial" causes, and hardly anybody was willing to admit the possibility that yellow fever existed. *To suggest such a thing was to incur the risk of personal denunciation, and even of ugly and unseemly threats.*

It must be admitted that there was some pretext for all this in the extraordinary mildness of the cases, the very slow speed of the disease—whatever it might be,—and the fact that Dr. Godfrey, of the Marine Hospital Medical Corps, had thrown the weight of his opinion into the scales in behalf of a denial of the infectious character of the fever. Under these circumstances, nobody, physician or layman, was willing publicly to suggest that there was any yellow fever among us.

The death of a man named Sweeney on the 15th inst., and of Mrs. Lemon on the 16th—the very first adult cases that had ended fatally since the 29th of August—seem to have been the first things to give rise to a reaction of public sentiment or opinion, both at home and abroad. Quarantine was renewed by New Orleans on the 17th—not only against Biloxi, but against the whole of Harrison County. Thereupon Mississippi City and Pass Christian, in an excess of superserviceable zeal to take part against their afflicted neighbors and brethren—like birds that peck at the wounded of the flock—made haste to take the same step against Biloxi. Pass Christian succeeded in getting a repeal of the sentence against herself, but Mississippi City has accomplished nothing for her own relief by her ungenerous and unnecessary hostility to her neighbors. She is still out in the cold. She has the courthouse, but people from Biloxi cannot visit it, because they are

excluded by a "shotgun quarantine;" people from Pass Christian cannot go there, because their own town would not permit them to return home; and people from other parts of the county, because they are afraid of the whole coast! *Voilà tout!*

We have heard in other years of the existence of "shotgun quarantines" in the interior of the country, where people had the excuse of knowing nothing about yellow fever and of being maddened by fear beyond all sense of humanity or decency. But no community, heretofore, has had the brutality or the bad taste to give this barbarous and cowardly action an official recognition and with brazen cheek to proclaim it to the world as a "shotgun quarantine."

To return for a moment to the statistics of the existing fever. It is impossible, in the absence of any regular official reports, to give the number of cases. They have been roughly estimated at 300, from the beginning to the present time including all that is possible to include, but we have little doubt that this estimate is much exaggerated.

The deaths, *from all causes*, within the last two months, have been variously reckoned from 16 to 18. The sexton of the cemetery declares that only 15 graves have been dug within that period, and two bodies were carried to New Orleans. This gives a total mortality of 17. Of these, one was caused by consumption, one by chronic laryngitis, one by teething, and one was a stillbirth. Certainly, therefore, supposing all the rest to have died of the fever, the number cannot have exceeded 13, of which more than half were at least doubtful.

This has been stated more than once before, and yet newspaper and other statements abroad, in speaking of the deaths *from fever*, invariably give them as 18—exaggerating to the extent of possibility.

The following are some of the dispatches telegraphed from this place to the Picayune, in reference to the fever.

BILOXI, Miss., October 18, 1886.

Dr. A. Parker Champlin, of Bay St. Louis, arrived here today under instructions from the State Board of Health, and in company with Dr. Harry, President of the County Board of Health, who also arrived this morning, visited the two patients in the Cox family. They were also accompanied by Dr. Pelaez, one of our local physicians. After an examination of the patients in the Cox family, and also Capt. Wm. Patten,

in another vicinity of the town, Dr. Champlin, together with Dr. Harry, unhesitatingly pronounced the disease to be marked yellow fever.

In an interview with your correspondent, Dr. Champlin stated most emphatically that there was not a single symptom wanting to confirm him in his opinion that the disease was yellow fever. Dr. Harry agrees with Dr. Champlin in his diagnosis of the cases.

Notwithstanding the declaration of Drs. Harry and Champlin that the disease existing in Biloxi is yellow fever, two of our local physicians decline to give an opinion as to the nature of the disease.

COMMUNICATIONS RELATIVE TO THE EXISTENCE
OF FEVER AT BILOXI AND THE STEPS
TAKEN BY THE HEALTH
AUTHORITIES.

The following communication was received yesterday by Dr. Joseph Holt, President of the Board of Health :

JACKSON, Miss., November 4, 1886.

To Dr. Joseph Holt, President Board of Health State of Louisiana, New Orleans, La.:

Dear Doctor—The following telegram was received last night :

BILOXI, Miss., November 3, 1886.

To Wirt Johnston, Secretary :

The last case within my knowledge of the epidemic of *relapsing fever* which has prevailed here was that of Miss Fannie Lemon, October 24th, 1886. She is now well. Miss A. Cox was taken sick three days before and is convalescing. I believe *relapsing fever* is the proper name for the fever which has prevailed here.

CHAS. PELAEZ, M. D.

The above statement of facts is correct. I am of opinion that the fever which has prevailed here is *relapsing fever*, as stated by Dr. Pelaez.

J. J. LEMON.

As you are perhaps aware we have Jackson county, which is under our jurisdiction, quarantined against Biloxi, and Hancock county has a like quarantine, which was established by the Board of Health of that county and which is conducted by them. I will state in this connection that it has been our intention to protect the points beyond those counties by instructing the Board of Health of Jackson county to admit no person, baggage, freight, etc., from Harrison county into the limits of their county, even destined for points beyond, and a similar request was made of the authorities of Hancock county.

We would be glad if you would communicate to us your views as to when the quarantine restrictions against Biloxi may, with safety, be removed.

Very truly yours,

WIRT JOHNSTON, Secretary.

In relation to the above telegram to Dr. Wirt Johnston, Dr. Holt said to a Times-Democrat reporter, concerning this latest diagnosis of "relapsing fever:" "The nomenclature of fevers is almost exhausted in this Biloxi business; the disease having already gone through the list of "remittent," "bilious remittent," "malarial fever of a mild type, with nothing infectious or dangerous," "shrimp fever," "Spanish fever," and now "relapsing fever." The same Dr. Pelaez in a conversation with Dr. Salomon and myself, on the occasion of our visit to Biloxi, told us that he had carefully examined the cases of illness at Cadet Point, having been requested to do so by the proprietors of the Canning Factory. He (Dr. Pelaez) stated, that he was thoroughly familiar with yellow fever and competent to recognize it, particularly since his experience in the last great epidemic; all of which we knew to be true. He then declared to us that the cases he had recently seen at Cadet Point *were as clearly marked and as certainly yellow fever as any he saw in 1878.* He then informed us that we must understand his position in the matter; that were he openly to coincide with us *he could not live in Biloxi twenty-four hours.* He further said: "Now, gentlemen, you must understand this, and not be surprised when you see my name as a signature to a circular which is being prepared for all the doctors of Biloxi to sign, positively denying that the disease is yellow fever."

Now, that this man unblushingly thrusts himself forward

in a deliberate attempt to mislead the health authorities of Mississippi, and particularly to practice upon so upright and thorough a gentleman as Dr. Wirt Johnston, who is making every effort in the public behalf, it would be criminal in me to hold my peace in a matter of such great importance. As for Dr. Lemon, of course, he follows the lead of one he knows to be really a qualified physician. These telegrams and a few other similar transactions are beginning to change the features of this Biloxi tragedy by such amusing tricks and antics to the frivolous character of a farce, in which doctors are playing the part of "low comedian," and playing their part badly.

REPLY TO THE INQUIRY OF DRS. WIRT JOHNSTON
AND A. P. CHAMPLIN, RELATIVE TO REMO-
VAL OF QUARANTINE FROM BILOXI.

In answer to the inquiry of Dr. Wirt Johnston, dated Nov. 4th, "as to when quarantine restrictions against Biloxi may, with safety, be removed," the following letter was sent, under date of November 5th:

In reply to the closing request in your letter, I will state that nothing short of a carefully conducted house-to-house inspection by thoroughly competent and trustworthy officers, appointed and directed by the health authorities of Mississippi, could possibly furnish the reliable information, such as would permit at this time, or until established cold weather, the city of New Orleans to be thrown open to free communication with Biloxi.

I offer this, not in the spirit of suggestion as one competent to give advice, but simply in response to your request and as a candid expression of the opinion of the Louisiana State Board of Health in relation to a very delicate, but strictly practical, question.

Yours, very truly,

JOSEPH HOLT, M. D.,

President Board of Health, State of Louisiana.

OFFICE BOARD OF HEALTH }
 State of Louisiana, }
 NEW ORLEANS, NOV. 7, 1886. }

A. PARKER CHAMPLIN, M. D.,

President Hancock County Board of Health.

Dear Sir—In reply to your letter of the 6th inst., I will state that it is impossible for the Louisiana State Board of Health to consider the advisability of removing quarantine from Biloxi, until this can be done intelligently and upon reliable information as to the actual health status of that town.

The question has simply resolved itself to this: shall the policy of self-protection inaugurated by the States of the Gulf and Tennessee, be set aside and put under foot, by the will and obstinate resistance of a few real estate owners and persons interested in local business in Biloxi?

These have set out upon a career of desperate determination to maintain the old method of secrecy and repression; and, in order to uphold them in their purpose, have resorted to, and are still enforcing a system of personal intimidation or bulldozing, as threatening and as effective, as ever known in any community. If they succeed, they also succeed in establishing successfully a precedent, which must utterly destroy the confidence now existing between the States, and must commit to overwhelming disaster, including the universal sweep of pestilence, the people of the Southern States. Their success simply means the repetition of the scenes and of all the consequences of the epidemic of 1878; not restricted to the one pestilence, yellow fever, but equally insuring the propagation and general spread of small-pox and cholera.

In maintaining the position compelled by the deliberate action of a few men of Biloxi, the Louisiana State Board of Health is not only performing a painful duty and one restricted to a simple line of action, but is upholding and vindicating a principle upon which the whole commercial and industrial future of these Gulf States depends.

The question at issue I repeat, is simply this: Shall this principle be upheld and the development of Southern resources progress, even if Biloxi must remain quarantined until the whole truth may be known and action safely taken, or shall obstinate denial and resistance to the salutary policy of outspoken truth

and open investigation, now adopted under a solemn pledge by a majority of the States of the Union compel these States to submit to a destructive policy of concealment dictated by four or five men in Biloxi, in the local interests of themselves!

We will see!!!

I can assure you positively that the quarantine restrictions against Biloxi will not be maintained one hour longer than the public safety absolutely demands.

Very respectfully,

JOSEPH HOLT, M. D.,

President Board of Health, State of Louisiana.

INITIAL STEPS OF QUARANTINE REMOVAL.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Health of Louisiana, held Tuesday, November 9th, Mr. Shakspeare offered the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Barr, which was unanimously adopted and ordered telegraphed at once to Dr. Wirt Johnston:

Resolved, That the Louisiana State Board of Health will remove Quarantine from Biloxi as soon as Dr. Wirt Johnston, Secretary of the Mississippi State Board of Health, will give us assurance of the absence of infectious disease."

DR. CHAMPLIN ARRIVES AT BILOXI TO INVESTIGATE THE
HEALTH OF THE TOWN. HIS INSTRUCTIONS IN-
VOLVE A HOUSE-TO-HOUSE INSPECTION.

BILOXI, Miss., Nov. 11.

[Special.] Dr. A. P. Champlin, of Bay St. Louis, representing the Mississippi State Board of Health, arrived here to-day for the purpose of making an investigation of the health of Biloxi. In order to make a thorough investigation, he will remain several days, and will be assisted by Sanitary Inspector Allen, of New Orleans, who is also here.

In company with Mr. Allen, Dr. Champlin this afternoon visited three houses at Point Cadet, where the sickness first made its appearance, and reports finding no sickness there now. To-morrow morning the work of investigation will be commenced in earnest.

The following communication was received by Acting Mayor McCabe to-day :

BILOXI, Miss., Nov. 11.

Capt. Phil. McCabe, Mayor City of Biloxi, and Members Town Council :

Gentlemen—By request of the Mississippi State Board of Health, I have visited your town for the purpose of investigating the actual state of sickness which has been prevalent for some time.

I have not as yet received explicit instructions as to what is desired of me, but I think I am expected to visit each house in which any sickness has been or may now be. I wish to quietly and rightly attend to this matter, and trust each and every citizen will assist me; but let me emphatically state that if I find anyone trying to evade the truth I will publish it to the world, and cease my investigation at once, and let the blame rest where it belongs.

A. PARKER CHAMPLIN, M. D.,

Inspector State Board of Health.

Acting Mayor McCabe assured Dr. Champlin that he would not be interfered with in the discharge of his duty, and further promised him that any assistance or information the Board of Aldermen could render him would be cheerfully and willingly given.

QUARANTINE RAISED.

There was a special meeting of the Board of Health of the State of Louisiana November 17th, 1886, at 11 o'clock.

It was convened for the purpose of considering the question of raising or maintaining the quarantine against Biloxi.

The following communication from the Secretary of the Mississippi State Board of Health was read.

JACKSON, Miss., November 16, 1886

DR. JOSEPH HOLT,

President Board of Health State of Louisiana,

New Orleans, La.

Dear Sir—The following telegram has been received from Dr. Champlin:

"BILOXI, Miss. Nov. 16, 1886.

"To WIRT JOHNSTON, *Secretary State Board of Health.*"

"Inspection finished for Biloxi. I again unhesitatingly state that it is safe to remove quarantine restrictions at once. No new cases. Father Chevallier will notify me of any new case. Were two cases in Biloxi river, Capt. Holly and brother, some time ago. Know of no new cases there. Answer wishes."

A. PARKER CHAMPLIN, M. D.,

Inspector Mississippi State Board of Health.

I telegraphed you to-day, this Board has decided to remove quarantine restrictions against Biloxi at once.

Very truly yours,

WIRT JOHNSTON,

Secretary Mississippi State Board of Health.

On the reading of the above, Col. J. J. Mellon moved that the quarantine restrictions against Biloxi be removed, from and after this moment; and the motion was unanimously carried.

